

ARIZONA TO GET \$17.5 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Arizona will receive \$17.5 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Arizona's largest school districts, that means:

ARIZONA	
TUCSON UNIFIED DISTRICT	\$1,601,466
MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DIST	1,185,350
PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCH D	628,821
PHOENIX ELEMENTARY DISTR	579,525
ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY DIS	555,639
SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED DISTRI	469,387
WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY DI	452,646
CHANDLER UNIFIED DISTRIC	377,756
PARADISE VALLEY UNIFIED	371,913
CARTWRIGHT ELEMENTARY DI	362,725
GLENDALE ELEMENTARY DIST	331,515
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED DIS	326,637
PEORIA UNIFIED DISTRICT	297,429
TEMPE ELEMENTARY DISTRIC	292,973
CHINLE UNIFIED DISTRICT	291,781
ALHAMBRA ELEMENTARY DIST	285,473
ISAAC ELEMENTARY DISTRIC	265,832
YUMA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT	261,723
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED DISTR	251,572
DEER VALLEY UNIFIED DIST	233,710

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.